

Appln. No. 09/586,964 - DE MEUTER et al.

**REMARKS**

The claim amendments find support in the specification at page 6.

The claims make explicit what was implicit, and like the prior claims, define over the applied art.

An interview is in order.

Respectfully submitted,

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## APPENDIX

### Amendments to the claims:

1. (Twice Amended) Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles consisting of a hard coating and an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core characterized in that at least one layer of the hard coating is obtained from a liquid mixture of sorbitol and erythritol wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 1% to 50% w/w erythritol; said layer being in direct contact with said core, sufficiently close to the core to effect adhesion to said core, or both; and said mixture forming a substantially homogeneous layer.

18. (Amended) A sugar-free hard-coated comestible having an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core, and a hard coating wherein the hard coating includes at least one layer formed from a syrup mixture containing sorbitol and erythritol, wherein the syrup mixture contains 1% to 50% w/w erythritol, said layer contacting said core, said syrup mixture being such that an essentially homogeneous layer is obtained.

New claim 19 is added.